

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 27, 2003 and the Advisory Action mailed December 12, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 5-7, 9-15, 17-24, 27-49, 74-80, 82, and 83 are amended; as a result, claims 1-49, and 74-84 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-19, 21-27, 29-38, 40-47, 74, and 76-84 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Loughmiller (U.S. 6,448,756).

Applicant believes that the claims, as amended, are distinguishable over Loughmiller. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-19, 21-27, 29-38, 40-47, 74, and 76-84 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-19, 21-27, 29-38, 40-47, 74, and 76-84 be allowed.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 20, 28, 39, 48, 49, and 75 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughmiller.

Claims 20, 28, 39, 48, 49, and 75 depend from their respective independent claims 13, 22, 30, 41, and 74. In view of the amendment to the independent claims, claims 20, 28, 39, 48, 49, and 75 are also patentable over Loughmiller. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 20, 28, 39, 48, 49, and 75 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 20, 28, 39, 48, 49, and 75 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29th day of December, 2003.

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